

What is claimed is:

1. A lens barrel comprising:

a linear guide ring;

a linearly movable ring which is provided inside  
5 said linear guide ring and has a cam on an outer  
circumferential surface; and

a hand-operated rotating ring, provided outside  
said linear guide ring, which is capable of rotating in a  
circumferential direction and is incapable of rotating in  
10 an optical axis direction, with respect to said linear  
guide ring and which has a first penetrate groove,

wherein said linear guide ring, said linearly  
movable ring and said hand-operated rotating ring are  
provided concentrically to each other,

15 wherein a rotation motion of said hand-operated  
rotating ring with respect to said linear guide ring  
causes said linearly movable ring to move linearly along  
the optical axis direction, via said linear guide ring,

wherein said linear guide ring has a second  
20 penetrate groove penetrated in a radial direction, and

wherein a projection member, which is to be engaged  
with the cam provided on said linear movable ring, via  
the second penetrate groove of said linear guide ring, is  
inserted from an outside of said hand-operated rotating  
25 ring.

2. The lens barrel according to claim 1, wherein when said projection member is inserted, a length of said projection member, which is positioned in the second penetrated groove, is substantially the same as a length of the second penetrated groove, in the optical axis direction.

3. The lens barrel according to claim 1, wherein the second penetrated groove of said linear guide ring is provided as a circumferential elongated groove in which the projection member does not block the rotation of said hand-operated rotating ring with respect to said linear guide ring.

4. The lens barrel according to claim 1, wherein said lens barrel serves as a zoom lens so that a desired focal length can be set freely by moving said linearly movable ring relative to said linear guide ring by a rotation of said hand-operated rotating ring.

5. The lens barrel according to claim 1, wherein said linear guide ring includes at least one linear guide slot extending parallel to said optical axis, and wherein said linearly movable ring includes at least one projection which is slidably engaged in said linear guide slot.

6. The lens barrel according to claim 1, wherein said linear guide ring includes a stationary ring.